

September 8, 2004

Mr. James Beard, Senior Engineer
GE Nuclear Energy
13113 Chestnut Oak Drive
Darnestown, MD 20878

Dear Mr. Beard:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the 2004 Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC) on October 25-27, 2004. Your participation will be as a member of the "New Reactors" panel which will discuss nuclear safety research that is needed to support advanced reactor and new reactor licensing. The panel will be part of the technical session on "New Reactors" on October 25, 2004, the first day of the conference. The panel is currently scheduled to take place in the afternoon part of the session. A preliminary agenda for the 2004 NSRC is enclosed.

As in previous years, the purpose of the NSRC is to provide a forum for dialogue between the professionals who are actively involved in the planning and conduct of important nuclear safety research activities and the conference attendees, including fellow nuclear safety research professionals. The objective of the NSRC is to discuss key planned or ongoing safety research activities and results as well as the connection the research has to resolving important nuclear design, technology, and safety issues and regulatory decisions. To ensure success, panel members are provided the following guidance:

- The overall objective of the panel is to discuss nuclear safety research that will be needed to provide a sound technical basis for safety, regulatory, or policy decisions for new and advanced reactor licensing.

Additionally, the following questions provide an overall framework for the panel discussions:

What are the new and advanced reactor design, technology, safety, and regulatory issues that will require research to support future plant licensing?

How will the research be used to develop the infrastructure that is needed to establish a sound technical basis for safety and regulatory decisions?

These questions are intended to set the overall direction and vision for the panel discussions. With these questions as the underpinning of the panel discussions, the following administrative guidance is provided:

- Each panel member will be allotted approximately 10 minutes to talk about needed nuclear safety research and how the results will be used to resolve key safety and regulatory issues that are relevant to reactor design(s) that their organization is pursuing. Additionally, two or three minutes will be allotted for Q&A following each presentation.

Mr. Beard

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- Panel members may use slides (e.g., PowerPoint, overhead) to support their presentations.
- After all presentations are completed, the moderator will facilitate open-ended panel discussions. During this phase panel members are encouraged to ask questions, make additional comments and answer questions. Attendees at the session will also be encouraged to ask questions and provide comments to the panel.
- Overall, the panel discussions are scheduled to last about 2 ½ hours which will be divided evenly between presentations/Q&A and facilitated discussions.

It is requested that an electronic copy of your draft presentation be provided to me no later than October 8, 2004 for review. A laptop and LCD projector will be provided as well as an overhead projector. If there are any other audio visual aides other than what we are providing, or if there are problems, please contact me at 301-415-7480 (sdr1@nrc.gov) or, for administrative support, please contact Margaret Bennett at 301-415-7252 (mtb1@nrc.gov).

To ensure a sufficient number of paper copies of your presentation are available at the session, please submit an electronic copy of your final presentation to Wendy Eisenberg (wpe@nrc.gov) by October 15, 2004, so that we can prepare the necessary copies for handout at the session. In addition, please send me a short personal biographical sketch that can be used to introduce you before your presentation.

The USNRC appreciates your participation in the 2004 NSRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stuart Rubin, Chair
New Reactors Panel
Nuclear Safety Research Conference

Enclosure: As stated

Mr. Beard

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Stuart Rubin, Chair
New Reactors Panel
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